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CURRENT INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

# Foundation Garments

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U.S. Department of Commerce
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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Total shipments of brassieres girdles, and all allied garments during 1983 were valued at $973.0 million, compared with 1982 shipments of $902.8, an increase of 7.2 percent. Brassieres shipments were valued at $766.3 million, while shipments of girdles, corsets, and other foundation garments during 1983 were valued at $206.7 million. Shipments of foundation garments from Puerto Rican plants increased 15.8 percent from $296.1 million in 1982 to $351.8 million in 1983. A description of the survey methodology and related information appears on page 4.

**NOTICE**

**This is the last report to be issued in this series. For 1984 and future years, similar data for these products will be collected and published in Current Industrial Reports Series MA23G, *Underwear and Nightwear*.**

Table 1. VALUE OF SHIPMENTS OF FOUNDATION GARMENTS, INCLUDING PUERTO RICAN SHIPMENTS: 1973 TO 1983

(Millions of dollars)

| Year | Total | Brassieres, bra-lettes, and bandeaux | Girdles, corsets, and other foundation garments |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1983 | 973.0 | 766.3 | 206.7 |
| 1982 | 902.8 | 707.2 | 197.5 |
| 1981 | 882.4 | 692.5 | 189.9 |
| 1980 | 834.6 | 640.5 | 194.1 |
| 1979 | 773.2 | 584.4 | 188.8 |
| 1978 | 737.0 | 546.7 | 190.3 |
| 1977 | 731.5 | 535.9 | 195.6 |
| 1976 | 690.7 | 499.3 | 191.4 |
| 1975 | 623.6 | 433.2 | 190.4 |
| 1974 | 626.8 | 428.3 | 198.5 |
| 1973 | 683.3 | 466.5 | 216.8 |

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Address inquiries concerning these figures to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Industry Division, Washington, D.C. 20233, or call Judy Dodds, (301) 763-7536.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Table 2. QUANTITY OF SHIPMENTS OF FOUNDATION GARMENTS: 1983 AND 1982

(1,000 dozens)

| Product code | Product description[1] | 1983[2] | 1982[2] |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Brassieres, bra-lettes, and bandeaux | 17,761 | 16,629 |
| 23421 21 | Brassieres (with band 3" or more) excluding bra-lettes | 489 | 507 |
| 23421 31 | Bra-lettes (hip-length with garters) including briefers | 36 | 51 |
| | Bandeaux (with less than 3" bands) | 17,236 | 16,071 |
| | Strap, regular | 11,927 | 10,853 |
| 23421 41 | $8.50 and under per dozen | (D) | (D) |
| 23421 43 | $8.51 to $12.75 per dozen | (D) | (D) |
| 23421 45 | $12.76 to $15.50 per dozen | 606 | 637 |
| 23421 46 | $15.51 to $19.25 per dozen | 1,085 | 926 |
| 23421 47 | $19.26 to $30.00 per dozen | 1,991 | 1,754 |
| 23421 48 | $30.01 and over per dozen | 7,928 | 7,124 |
| 23421 51 | Strap, padded, or contour-lined | 4,284 | 4,283 |
| 23421 61 | Strapless or convertible | 1,025 | 935 |
| 23422 11 | Corsets (back-laced or front-laced) | 6 | 5 |
| | Girdles | 3,094 | 3,166 |
| | Girdles (with opening) including girdles made of latex | 653 | 620 |
| 23422 21 | $36.00 and under per dozen | 183 | 212 |
| 23422 23 | $36.01 to $65.99 per dozen | 285 | 271 |
| 23422 25 | $66.00 to $95.99 per dozen | 100 | 81 |
| 23422 27 | $96.00 and over per dozen | 85 | 56 |
| | Girdles (without opening) including girdles made of latex | 2,441 | 2,546 |
| 23422 32 | $30.00 and under per dozen | 793 | 1,010 |
| 23422 34 | $30.01 to $51.00 per dozen | 690 | 635 |
| 23422 36 | $51.01 and over per dozen | 958 | 901 |
| 23422 61 | Combination and one-piece garments (corselets) | 279 | 298 |
| 23422 | Maternity foundation garments (including corsets and combination) | 82 | 63 |
| 23890 71 | Garter belts | 144 | 137 |

(D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual companies.

[1] Prices represent manufacturers' wholesale list price.
[2] Includes garments made in Puerto Rican plants.

Table 3. QUANTITY AND VALUE OF SHIPMENTS OF FOUNDATION GARMENTS: 1983 AND 1982

(Quantity in 1,000 dozens; value in millions of dollars)

| Product code | Product description | Total | | Domestic producers | | Puerto Rican plants | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Quantity shipped | Value of shipments | Quantity shipped | Value of shipments | Quantity shipped | Value of shipments |
| | 1983 | | | | | | |
| 2342- -- | Brassieres, girdles, and allied garments | 21,366 | 973.0 | 14,117 | 621.2 | 7,249 | 351.8 |
| 23421 10 | Brassieres, bra-lettes, and bandeaux | 17,761 | 766.3 | 11,574 | 455.1 | 6,187 | 311.2 |
| 23422 10 | Girdles and other foundation garments | 3,605 | 206.7 | 2,543 | 166.1 | 1,062 | 40.6 |
| | 1982 | | | | | | |
| 2342- -- | Brassieres, girdles, and allied garments | 20,298 | 904.7 | 14,062 | 608.6 | 6,236 | 296.1 |
| 23421 10 | Brassieres, bra-lettes, and bandeaux | 16,629 | 707.2 | 11,430 | 451.1 | 5,199 | 256.1 |
| 23422 10 | Girdles and other foundation garments | 3,669 | 197.5 | 2,632 | 157.5 | 1,037 | 40.0 |

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Table 4. QUANTITY AND VALUE OF FOUNDATION GARMENTS REPORTED IN MA23J AS COMPARED WITH 1982 CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES

(Quantity in 1,000 dozens; value in millions of dollars)

| Product code | Product description | MA23J | | | | 1982 Census of Manufactures | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1983 | | 1982 | | | |
| | | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value |
| 23421 10 | Brassieres, bra-lettes, and bandeaux | 11,574 | 455.1 | 11,430 | 451.1 | 11,721 | 449.3 |
| 23422 10<br>23890 71 | Girdles, and other foundation garments | 2,543 | 166.1 | 2,632 | 157.5 | (X) | 155.6 |

(X) Not applicable.

Table 5. SHIPMENTS, EXPORTS, IMPORTS, AND APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF FOUNDATION GARMENTS: 1983 AND 1982

(Quantity in 1,000 dozens; value in millions of dollars)

| Product code | Product description | Shipments[1] | | Exports of domestic merchandise[2] | | | Percent exports to shipments | | Imports for consumption[4 5] | | 807 Imports for consumption[6] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value at port | Estimated producers' value[3] | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value | Quantity | Value |
| | 1983 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23421 10 | Brassieres, bra-lettes, and bandeaux | 17,761 | 766.3 | 9,006 | 80.4 | 75.3 | 50.7 | 10.5 | 12,331 | 217.7 | 9,723 | 132.4 |
| 23422 10 | Girdles, corsets, combinations, and accessories | 3,605 | 206.7 | 174 | 4.4 | 4.1 | 4.8 | 2.1 | 843 | 14.8 | 89 | 2.3 |
| | 1982 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23421 10 | Brassieres, bra-lettes, and bandeaux | 16,629 | 707.2 | 7,309 | 68.3 | 63.9 | 43.9 | 9.7 | [illegible]490 | 197.7 | 9,603 | 175.2 |
| 23422 10 | Girdles, corsets, combinations, and accessories | 3,669 | 197.5 | 249 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 6.8 | 2.5 | [illegible]61 | 14.8 | 582 | 11.3 |

Notes: Apparent consumption is not shown because separate export data for 807 garments are not available.

Comparison of SIC-based codes with Schedule B export numbers and TSUSA import numbers is shown in table 6.

[1]Includes garments which were cut in the United States, sent outside the country to be sewn, and then shipped back to the United States under a special import category referred to as 807 which is part of schedule 8, Special Classification Provisions, of the Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated. Includes Puerto Rican shipments.

[2]Source: Bureau of the Census report EM 546, U.S. Exports of Domestic and Foreign Merchandise.

[3]These values were derived by use of adjustment factors to exclude freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in moving goods to the port of export. This adjustment is made to convert the values to an approximation of the producers' value of exported goods. Current adjustment factors (0.9363 for industry group 234) are based on data for 1981 which are published in M81(AS)-5, Origin of Exports of Manufactured Products, appendix B.

[4]Excludes imports from Puerto Rico, but includes 807 imports.

[5]Source: Bureau of the Census reports IM 146, U.S. Imports for Consumption and IA-245X, U.S. Imports for Consumption and General Imports.

[6]Source: Bureau of the Census report IA245A, U.S. Imports for Consumption and General Imports.

Table 6. COMPARISON OF SIC CODES (DOMESTIC OUTPUT), SCHEDULE B EXPORT NUMBERS, AND TSUSA IMPORT NUMBERS: 1983

| Domestic output | Export Number | Import Number |
|---|---|---|
| 23421 10 | 376.2520-376.2560 | 376.2425-376.2446,<br>376.2825-376.3846 |
| 23422 10 | 376.2600 | 376.2466-376.2486 |

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## DESCRIPTION OF SURVEY

*Scope of Survey*—This survey covers both manufacturers and jobbers of brassieres, girdles, and allied garments in the United States, except very small firms (generally less than five employees) for which 1982 Census of Manufactures data were derived from administrative records of other government agencies. Also included are shipments of brassieres, girdles, and allied garments that are produced in Puerto Rican plants affiliated with United States companies. In addition, brassieres, girdles, and allied garments, which are cut in the United States, sent outside the country to be sewn, and shipped back to the United States are included.

*Survey Methodology*—The statistics in this publication were collected by mail on Bureau of the Census annual Form MA23J, Foundation Garments. The survey panel includes all known manufacturers and jobbers, except the very small firms excluded from the scope of the survey. Approximately 110 companies are included. No estimate is derived for the small firms which are excluded from the scope of the survey.

*Reliability of Data*—Survey error may result from several sources: (1) inability to obtain information about all cases in the survey, (2) response errors, (3) definitional difficulties, (4) differences in the interpretation of questions (5) mistakes in recording or coding the data obtained, and (6) other errors of collection, response, coverage, and estimation for missing data. These nonsampling errors also occur in complete censuses. Although no direct measurement of the biases due to nonsampling errors has been obtained, precautionary steps were taken in all phases of the collection, processing, and tabulation of the data in an effort to minimize their influence.

A major source of bias in the published estimates is due to imputing data for nonrespondents, for late reporters, and for data which fail logic edits. Missing figures are imputed based on yearly movements shown by reporting firms. Imputation generally is limited to a maximum of 10 percent for any one data cell. Figures with imputation rates greater than 10 percent are footnoted.

The imputation rate is not an explicit indicator of the potential error in published figures due to nonresponse because the actual yearly movements for nonrespondents may or may not closely agree with the imputed movements. The range of difference between the actual and imputed figures is not precisely known, but is assumed to be small. The degree of uncertainty regarding the accuracy of the published data, however, increases as the percentage of imputation increases. Figures with imputation rates above 10 percent should be used with caution.

*Revisions to Previous Period Data*—Statistics for previous years may be revised as the result of corrected data from respondents, late reports for which imputations were made as described above, or other corrections. Figures which have been revised by more than 5 percent from previously published figures are indicated by footnotes.

Revisions may include changes to prior period data resulting from reconciliation of the results of this survey with the 1982 Census of Manufactures to correct differences in reported data between the two series and to identify and verify new establishments included in the scope of this survey. Table 4 presents a comparison of data from the two series following the reconciliation.

*Adjustment for Price Change*—All dollar figures included in this publication are in current dollars; i.e., they have not been adjusted for price change.

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS

*Quantity and Value of Shipments*—The figures on quantity and value of shipments represent physical shipments of all products sold, transferred to other establishments of the same company, or shipped on consignment, whether for domestic or export sale. The value represents the net sales price, f.o.b. plant, to the customer or branch to which the products are shipped, net of discounts, allowances, freight charges, and returns. Shipments to a company's own branches are assigned the same value as comparable sales to unaffiliated customers; i.e., the value includes an appropriate allocation of company overhead and profit. Products bought and resold without further manufacture are excluded.

These data include the shipments of products made in Puerto Rican plants affiliated with U.S. companies. In addition, shipments of brassieres, girdles, and allied garments which were cut in the United States and sent outside the country to be sewn are included. These finished garments are shipped back to the United States under a special import category referred to as 807, which is part of Schedule B, Special Classification Provisions of the Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated. Separate data for these 807 garments are available from the Foreign Trade Division of the Bureau of the Census.

## COMPARISON OF EXPORT, IMPORT, AND DOMESTIC OUTPUT DATA

The Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system used for domestic output and the statistical export and import commodity classifications were developed independently. This results in considerable difficulty in comparing the three types of data for many commodity areas. The domestic output classification is based on type of industry; on the other hand, the export and import classification system is more materials oriented. Aside from the differences in the basic commodity classifications, there are additional problems involving import data, since there are a substantial number of imported commodities which are not produced in the United States or which are produced only in very small quantities and which, therefore, have no comparable domestic output classification. The relationships shown in this report should be considered only as approximations, since, in addition to the problems mentioned

above, there are also the following problems affecting the comparability of the three sets of data.

*Valuation*—There are different methods of valuation for the three types of data:

*Domestic Output*—Valued at the point of production. It includes the net sales price, f.o.b. plant, after discounts and allowances, exclusive of freight charges and excise taxes.

*Exports*—Valued at the point of exportation. It includes the selling price, or cost if not sold, and inland freight, insurance, and other charges to the export point.

Estimated producers' values of exports have also been developed. These values more closely approximate the values reported for domestic output because they exclude freight, insurance, and other charges applied from the producing plant to the export point.

*Imports*—Valued at the first port of entry in the United States. It includes c.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight), duty, and other charges to the import point.

*Duplication in Quantity and Value of Output*—Because producers' shipments of some commodities may be used as materials for incorporation into other commodities, combinations of data for such commodities may contain a certain amount of duplication. Thus, percentages of exports to output or imports to apparent consumption (output plus imports minus exports) at four-digit or broader levels may be understated. Where duplication is known to be substantial, the output data are appropriately noted in the table.

*Estimated Low-Valued Export and Import Transactions*—The import statistics include estimated value data for shipments valued under $251. Effective August 1982, value data for shipments valued under $251 are estimated from factors based on the ratios of under $251 shipments to individual country totals. Prior to August 1982, estimates were based on a 1-percent sample of documents for shipments valued under $251. Effective with the statistics for March 1979, the lower limit of the value ranges for estimating data for low-value export shipments was raised from $251 to $501. Effective July 1981, the statistics for countries other than Canada reflect fully compiled data for shipments valued over $500. Prior to July 1981, these data were fully compiled only for shipments valued $1,000 and over, while shipments valued $501 to $999 were estimated, based on a 50-percent sample.

*Manufacturers' Shipments, Not Specified by Kind*—The value of manufacturers' shipments at the four-digit industry level often includes a small amount which is not distributed among the individual five-digit product classes. Export and import percentages at the more detailed levels might, therefore, be slightly overstated.

*Time Lag Between Output and Exports*—There will be a lag between the time a commodity is produced or shipped by the producer and the time it is actually exported, especially when intermediaries (wholesalers, exporters, etc.) are involved. Ordinarily, this type of discrepancy is insignificant in annual figures.

*"Direct" vs "Total" Commodity Exports and Imports*—Export and import data do not include materials which are incorporated into other more finished products and exported or imported in finished form. Thus, by showing only direct exports and imports, the relation of exports to output and imports to apparent consumption for intermediate products is considerably understated.

*Used Commodities*—With a few exceptions, used or rebuilt commodities are classified in the same import or export codes as is new merchandise. Percentages are thus overstated to the extent that used or rebuilt products are significant in trade.

*Geographic Area of Coverage*—Import and export data reflect the movement of merchandise into and out of U.S. foreign trade zones, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. customs territory (includes the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico).

## HISTORICAL NOTE

Data on brassieres, girdles, and allied garments have been collected by the Bureau of the Census since 1960. Historical data may be obtained from Current Industrial Reports, available at your local Federal Depository Library. A list of these libraries may be obtained from the Bureau of the Census regional offices:

| Office | Telephone |
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| Atlanta, Georgia | (404) 526-2271 |
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| M3-1 | Monthly | *Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders* |
| (AS) | Annually | *Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM)* |
| (MC) | Quinquennially | *Census of Manufactures* |
| *Foreign Trade Reports* | | |
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| Office of Textiles | Dennis Rudy | (202) 377-4508 |

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